

1. (Twice Amended) Holding device for a flexographic printing sleeve, the holding device having at least one receiving member with a cylindrical lateral surface for mounting the printing sleeve, the receiving member being rotatable about a longitudinal axis of the printing sleeve, characterized in that

B¹ the receiving member has two or more shoulders of differing diameters and that a second, equivalent receiving member is provided, both receiving members being arranged and rotatable about the longitudinal axis,

and the receiving members with their smallest shoulders being aligned with each other,

and at least one receiving member being adjustable along the longitudinal axis to set a variable distance between both receiving members.

4. (Twice Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the sleeve has reinforcing elements in an inner cavity.

B² 5. (New) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the support sleeve has reinforcing elements in an inner cavity.

6. (New) A method for the use of a holding device for holding a flexographic printing sleeve, the method comprising the steps of:

locating a support sleeve between said first receiving member and said second receiving member;